

rk Row, New York. Entered at the Post-Office at New York as Second-Class Mail Matter.

TOLUME 48......NO. 18,168.

NEEDED GAS LEGISLATION.

It is evident that any effective legislation to restrain the Gas Trust in its encroachments on the rights of conners must be directed to the abrogation of the existing laws permitting the abuses complained of and to the enactment of statutes to prevent their repetition.

A first step must be the repeal of the provision in the charter which ties the hands of the officials charged with the duty of enforcing the law against the offending corporations.

In the matter of the test of gas for purity the Commissioner is directed to "inspect the illuminating gas as equently as he may think best"—provided that it is not done frequently enough to accomplish any good.

He is empowered to fine the company—but only after proof of three successive violations of the law, and then mly to the modest amount of \$100.

He is given authority to fit up a gas-inspecting laboray-provided that he can persuade the Board of Estite to allow him an appropriation for the purpose, 2 hich he cannot.

Plain justice to the public demands the removal of se absurd restrictions and the substitution therefor a provision granting the Commissioner authority to proceed against the offending companies whenever the circumstances warrant it and to do so without fear or favor and with a direct view to the consumers' interests.

Thus, the Commissioner should be empowered to test the gas whenever complaints sufficient in number are lodged with him, and he should be authorized to make se tests as often and as unexpectedly as desired. He should be vested with powers akin to those of the Bank Examiner, which would enable him to pry into the inner processes of gas manufacture and to make a minute amination of its mechanical methods.

This is demanded if there is truth in the charge that companies have been accustomed to force air into mains. The "thinning" process, as it is called, is aled to be in use among all dishonest companies; if so, It is a practice to which a speedy end should be put.

Provision should also be made for giving the consumer exact information about the state of his meter. Thenever the meter is inspected a memorandum of the reading of the dial should be furnished him with which he may compare the figures of previous readings.

A regular procedure should be established for the settlement of bills in dispute and the customer given some course against the company's threat to turn off his gas and to declare his deposit forfeited if payment is re-

portunities to escape, And in general the status of the gas companies' customers should legally be made that of the customers of for the Prevention of Cruelty to Humor other business concerns—a condition the gas consumer to apprehend the old jokes whose pichas been far from realizing.

THE DANGER UNCHANGED.

Much was said after the Newark trolley disaster about some one's criminal negligence in failing to provide a care could be taken of a faithful old "derail" switch at the Clifton avenue crossing. Such a joke that formerly worked for us in caution, it was pointed out, would have prevented the cident by the interposition of a substitute accident of by send it to the Old Jokes' Home, per ses seriousness—that is, the car skidding down hill on ambulance. Very truly, WEBER & FIBLDS. the icy rails could have been thrown from the track and upset and its passengers badly jolted, but at least the ensuing horror would have been averted. This is a function of the "derail," the mute but vigilant guardian of dangerous crossings.

Well, in the ten days that have since elapsed it has happened three times that a trolley car not under control has forced its way by the gates on to the Lackawanna tracks at this or at some other similar grade crossing. In one of these dangerous situations the motorman, thinking quickly in an emergency, made a hairbreadth escape survive kindly have them oremated so from collision with a train by putting on full power and they will be done away with forever dashing out of danger.

Where was the "derail?" Does it take more than a the street. He saw two ladies coming week to install one? It seems that now that the horse is out of a house. He followed them. stolen they have not even taken the trouble to lock the What time of the day does this reprebern door. Instead there is a foolish ordinance by the sent? Newark Board of Works requiring Lackawanna trains to stop at all trolley crossings.

It is not necessary to overlook what responsibility this road had in the disaster to regard this proposed your father." Who was it? holding up of its fast trains and the resulting inconvenience to thousands of commuters as lawmaking as objectionable as it is silly.

CERTIFICATES FOR NURSES.

A very meritorious legislative bill introduced by Sentator Elsberg and Assemblyman Armstrong provides for he lands the State registration of nurses and the issuance to them, at the end of a satisfactory course of instruction in a witraining school, of regents' certificates serving as diomas. It is a bill which, in Dr. Janeway's words, will enable the physician to distinguish between competent members of the profession and simple, kindly caretakers not fitted to assume responsibility."

dressed lady and a butcher? At present a nurse who has spent a few weeks in a private hospital and provided herself with a uniform is practically on a par with one of genuine hospital experice and of real competence. The two years' training which the bill in question makes obligatory before quali- shop to-day. fication for a certificate will end this injustice to the more deserving nurses and raise membership in their noble profession to a single high standard.

In many diseases at present treated, in typhoid particularly, careful nursing is of almost as vital importance to a patient's welfare as medical attendance. The ad- out visible means of support. Several vantages of a more uniform efficiency in nurses thus be- of them being too old to work "concome obvious.

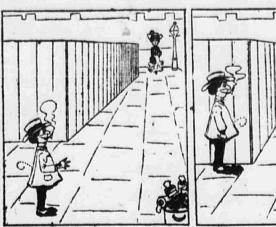
THE OLD MAID.

Miss Van Vorst and Mr. Ropert J. Burdette are at Clark. se regarding the importance to the world of old maids. Mr. Burdette's contention that we could not do without has much to commend it to acceptance.

No doubt the mothers of twelve children do their duty t by society and deserve the letters they may get from ents. The spinster, in a more limited sphere, recredit on her sex. Hers is frequently a ripened Prof. Josh M. A. Lens: that has been impossible to her sister because of old responsibilities, and a maturity of charm with- of the antediluvian Irishman who mispliness that is most attractive. Milliner and wood-sawing tramp and the semile Lone. shine to keep her young. She has few somehurst commuter. These three un nd great personal liberty. She preserves the bal- fortunates might appropriately be conny homes. When "aunty" goes she is missed Home at once. P. J. DALY.

THE = EVENING=

ARDENT ALGY PLANS A SURPRISE --- BUT THE SURPRISE IS ALL HIS.



around the corner of the fence, and-

JOKES'

By Roy L. McCardell.

THE OLD

Why does a hen lay an egg!

back to the Old Jokes' Home.

ody was satisfied."

Answer-A Little after two.

Answer-His mother.

Amswer-A German

Answer-A. Frenchman.

No. 676 Tenth avenue.

What was it about?

Two stale buns got fresh.

If he comes from France what is he?

If he comes from Ireland what is he?

A Bunch from Dayonne.

Prof. Josh M. A. Long: Why is a chicken on a fence like a

penny? (Because its head is on one side

What is the difference between a well

The lady dresses to kill and the

There was a fight up in the baker

Meanwhile Good Work Goes On.

Thanks are due the following friends

of the Home for sending in good old

jokes that have been long at large with-

tinuously" any more: George W. Day

Ed Parker, of 667 East One Hundred

and Flfty-first street; Edna Reid Duff.

No. 25 West Ninety-eighth street: A. L.

Clark, no address; Frank A. Smith, Firthciff, N. Y.; J. Theodore Murphy,

No. 174 East One Hundred and Seventh

street; E. J. Pelikan, No. 51 West One

flundred and Elevinth street; George

Vallette, No. 31 Clark street; Sam Kerr.

For the Lethal Chamber.

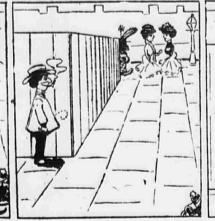
I respectfully apply for the admission

many others

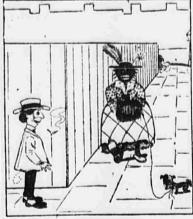
No. 440 West Twenty-eighth street, and

B. DWYER.

Asks for Incineration.



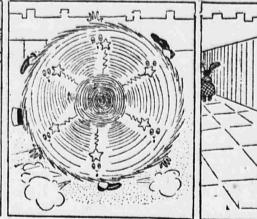
2-When she passes I'll rush out and embrace her.



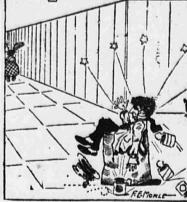
3-Here she comes! I would know her



4-Hello! Maudie, dear!

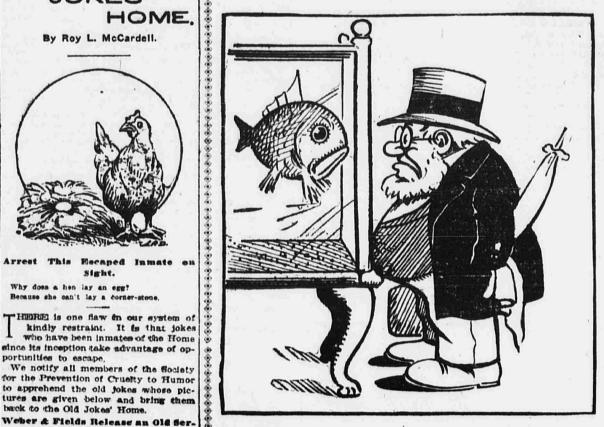


5-1 !---!!!!---!1



6-That couldn't have been Maudie

DOC SELTZER VISITS THE AQUARIUM.









Some of the Best Jokes of the Day.

USELESS TRANSFER.

Conductor (to dejected-looking man a e finds a strap)-I can't take this trans-

Dejected-Looking Man-Why not? Conductor-Because it's too old. It's punched for 10.30, and here it is 3 o'clock Dejected-Looking Man-I know. I've een waiting for the car.-Chicago Rec

NOT HIS FAULT.

Captious Person-How can you recon cile such a thing with your conscience You contribute to the missionary cause and yet you sell idols to the heathen! Philadelphia Manufacturer-They are billed as dolls. I can't help it, can I, i the heathens make idols of them?-Phil-M., No. 199 Logan street. Brookiya: D. adelphia Press.

"Remember," said the man who takes quarter down where he thinks it to lie, so that the inside distance between it and one of the other quarters "One of the most helpful incidents of my career was a contract to put in a town clock while I was a mem per of the Board of Aldermen."-Wash-

ECCENTRICITIES. Gunner-I see they bedecked a goat with ribbons and roses at Newport. Guyer-Who did? Gunner-The cream of society. Guyer-H'm! then I suppose the goat

CONUNDRUMS What is the difference between Joan of Arc and Noah's ark? One was made of gopher wood, the other was Maid of

HOME FUN FOR WINTER EVENINGS.

What is the difference between chicken with one wing and one with two? A difference of (a) o-pinion, What is the greatest thing to take before singing? Breath.

Why is Cupid a poor marksman? He is always making Mrs. (misses). Why do most girls like ribbons? They think the beaux becoming. What girl might have killed Dewey a

Manila? Dinah might (dynamite). Why is a blacksmith's apron like an unpopular girl? It keeps the sparks off. Why isn't the moon rich? Because it spends its quarters getting full. Why are girls good post-office clerks?

quarter down where he thinks it ought mails. What animals are admitted to the

When is a girl like a mirror? When she is a good-looking (g) lass. What is a button? A small event that is always coming off.

with one eye? When he has a vacancy for a pupil.

In what key should a declaration of love be made? Be mine ah! (B minor.) Why is a sheet of postage stamps like distant relatives?

only alightly connected:

end? Because it is round.

stood, one on each side of the table. and then blindfolded. They are then turned round three times and told to low out the candle-is they can.

A lighted candle is placed in the

entre of a table and two players are

THE MAGIC CANDLE.

THE POTATO RACE PROBLEM

Jimmy, Jacky and Jason ran a potato there in all? How many feet from potato No. 1 to potato No. 25 in each that row and laid down with the first how long did he take?

Do They Debar Women from Careers?

ARE HUSBANDS A DETRIMENT?

By Harriet Hubbard Ayer.

YOUNG girl who is earning a good salary and is, as A she frankly says, ambitious to get on, and unwilling to give up her business career, asks if I think a husband in her case will be a handicap. "Do you think," she says naively, "that I stand as good a chance to do my best work and get to the top of my profession, married as single."

To tell you the truth, my dear girl, I don't think a mere nusband would stand in your way long. For it is evident that you care more for getting on in your business than for being the wife of any man.

Such being the case, I should be truly sorry for the man whom you marry.

He would have to play second fiddle with a vengeanceand from the very beginning, too.

Anything that diverts you or distracts your attention from your work will impede your progress. But what do you want with a husband if you care more

for your business future than for a home and a man's love and protection? There are many happy married men and women who are both money-earners, but they have as a goal the establishment of a home, where finally the wife is to rest and her

husband is to have the double pleasure of hig own domestic happiness and his wife's release from the routine and drudg-When a man and woman work for a united aim-when after a long day of honest toil, they meet as lovers to enjoy the confidence and happiness of each other's companionship

the husband is no handicap. His love and sympathy are the reward and compensation

to the wife for the many petty tyrannies and annoyances of the daily wage-earner's life.

But you are quite self-sufficing—you do not in the least need a man to protect you or comfort you. You have not even time to speak of love as a factor in your proposed mar-

You are entirely absorbed in your personal outlook.

It seems to me you should give the other side of the question a little thought. What about the man you are discussing as husband and

nandicap. A husband has a right to some little consideration, and his happiness or misery are of importance to him to no one else. What sort of a wife can a girl make who cold-bloodedly, discusses her future husband as a possible nuisance while

she is supposed to be at the most romantic period of her acquaintance with him? The woman who thinks her husband may prove a detri-

ment to her would better stay single. Husbands are easier to escape altogether than to suppress

once acquired. Of course, there are husbands and husbands. Some of them like to work for their wives, and are never so happy as when they turn over their week's salary to the small

hands that are often such surprisingly active money There are others who dearly love to see their wives work They are, in fact, so unselfish that they are more am-

bitious to see their wives succeed in life than they are to work themselves. Such a husband would best suit you if you feel that you

ought to have a husband at all.

Seriously, I do not think married women with home duties and home ties can be as successful in business as women who are thoroughly independent.

A business woman cannot be a good or thorough he

It is frequently said of well-known writers or professional women that they are the most excellent housekeepers. But I know, and so must many other women who have een both housekeeper and bread-earner, that a conscientious business woman must concentrate her working day on her work, whatever it may be.

If you take eight or nine hours out of a housekeeper's day each day of her life how can you expect her to compete with the woman who has nothing to divert her thoughts from her home and her family, and who has all her time for her celfimposed tasks of loving thought and provision for her time and and children?

A business woman is in a hurry in the mornings before s leaves home. She is tired and nerve-frazzled usually when her days

work is done. How can she keep the domestic machinery running

smoothly if she is never at the engine?

I have said a good many times before marriage is only

justifiable when love sanctifies it. You are not in love, If you were you would never have mentioned husbands andicaps in the same sentence.

Your own future is what you love best, Therefore, you will be happier and one man will he saved

such misery if you remain single.

A MISSISSIPPI PACKET.

I wish I could make it plain how wonderful a being is the steamboat. She has a romance clinging to her every timber and the blood of the thoroughbred in her veins. Into her go the engines of dead-and-gone river racers, and the treasured relice-sweet-toned bells, paintings, bits of bric-a-brac-of famous steamers of the past. Cabins, worthy because of hauty or stanchness, descend from generation to generaion. Her name oftentimes stands for wife, daughter, oldtime sweetheart, life-long friend, writes Willis Gibson in

Nobly she does her work. As a rule the packet steamboat tgavels at least 25,000 miles in a year. Landing, she does not float smoothly into a deep-water slip as does the ocean line; race. Each one had twenty-five pota- she has to grind through sand, stumble over rocks, buffet oes to pick up, says the Philadelphia against banks and wharves. In time of storm she does not North American. The potatoes were have miles of space in which to manoeuvre; she is cooped up lying at intervals of five feet in three at the wind's mercy, with nine-tenths of her bulk When is a schoolmaster like a man parallel rows. How many potatoes were water, in a channel sometimes not wide enough to turn about

January Scribner's.

row? If every potato in each row had to a ghost that St. Louis packet which I first boarded at St. far in her lifetime she had been once wrecked in a cyclone

to be carried clear back to the head of Paul, there was more than mere fancy in the words. Thus have to run before he got through? Ir last accident losing almost her entire bottom. The an Jimmy could run 326 feet in one minute.

was the "butter of society."-Chicago U. S. Ogast Artillery, Fort Hamilton.

The dog that's standing in this gate Weighs twenty pounds and half his own weight illow-much that is to figure out Will cause you trouble, I have no doubt. —Philadelphia North American.

between the other two quarters.

TRICK WITH THREE COINS.

DISTANCE

Ask some one to give you three 25-cent

pieces. Lay two of them down, say a

Now for the trick, which is really not

a trick, but merely a test of one's ability

to measure distances with one's eye,

This looks easy enough to do, but your

friends will be surprised when you show

them how far from correct their meas

PUZZLE IN NUMBERS.

finger-length apart.

urement was.

INSIDE